

A man one day said to me, on the ship going over, "Kirkham, I want to know something. Today, I was deeply impressed. I saw two of your boys kneeling when you had your sacrament service, and they blessed the sacrament, and asked the Lord, as they renewed their covenants, to help them to keep his commandments. Won't you sit down and tell me more about this? These youth have definitely stimulated me."

A thousand doors are open. Brethren and sisters, everywhere the world is hungry for the word of God. The call has gone forth. Rally to that call. I love the testimony of Heber C. Kimball. When the Prophet went down the aisle in the Kirtland Temple and said to him, "Heber, the Lord wants you to open up the mission in England," he replied: "Oh, but my tongue is stammering. My family is in want." But he went, and fifteen hundred were baptized in the first eight months by Heber C. Kimball.

Brethren and sisters, in all humility, and with a deep prayer in my heart because of this lovely experience, I know the world is now awaiting the word of God—Answer the call.

God be with us as we bring this glorious message to the children of the earth, that the blessings we enjoy may be theirs also, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER ALMA SONNE

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

My brethren and sisters, something over a year ago when Sister Sonne and I boarded the great ocean liner to return to our homes from Europe, the news was flashed to the passengers that Harry Lauder, the Scotch comedian, had just died. We read in the paper the next day something about Mr. Lauder. I recall now that he lost his only son in the Battle of the Marne in World War I.

Lauder was heartbroken. He was inconsolable, and he grieved much. After a week or two he received word from the military authorities that he might visit the graveside of his boy, buried over in France. Thereupon, with some of his friends, Harry Lauder crossed the channel and went to the cemetery where his son lay buried beneath the sod of France.

The little group with Mr. Lauder stood around the graveside. Someone in the group said in a whisper, "I wonder if God weeps when such laddies fall?"

Harry Lauder stepped forward. He looked down at the grave of his boy and said to those assembled there, "When a man has been struck as I have, there are three roads open to him. One road leads to depravity and drink. Another road leads to despair and suicide. A third road leads to God. I am determined at this moment to take the road that leads to God."

He forgot all about his commercial engagements; and he volunteered his services to the British and American armies and

began to sing his Scotch melodies and to tell his stories to the British and American soldiers.

UNSELFISH SERVICE

After all, brethren and sisters, how do we find God except in the service of our fellow men? I know from actual experience and observation that the leaders of this Church are unselfish in their service and in their devotion. I was greatly impressed this morning when they announced the additions to the General Authorities of the Church.

For more than ten years now I have leaned heavily upon my friend and associate, Marion G. Romney. As a result I have come to love him and to depend upon him, and when I went over to Europe, it was Brother Romney with whom I had correspondence relative to the distribution of welfare supplies in the countries across the sea, and together he and I and others have sat in council many times.

I thought of these men who have been called to be Assistants to the Quorum. I knew President George Q. Morris for many years when he led the great M.I.A. movement. He used to come to our stake when my chief responsibility was with that organization. I met Brother Stayner Richards forty years ago, in Newcastle, England, where he was serving as a missionary.

I have also met the other brethren: Brother ElRay L. Christiansen lives in my home town, the place I call home, and the place I visit occasionally as opportunity permits. I know something about his work in the Logan Temple and in the East Cache Stake of Zion. I can truthfully say he is a man of God.

I have visited the stakes of Zion with Brother John Longden. I have heard him preach the gospel, and I have heard him sing the gospel, as he can do. Brethren and sisters, the Church is growing and expanding. It has never gone forward at a more rapid pace than it is at this moment.

The barriers which were raised against it at one time are crumbling, and we are permitted to preach the gospel in the lands of the free.

A GREAT CHURCH

Just before leaving London, I attended a district conference. At the close of the morning session, a man who had been sitting in the audience came to the front. In a loud tone of voice, so everyone could hear, he said, "I resent the audacity of your claims," and he followed it up with these words: "You refer to yourselves as a great church. It isn't great," he said. "You have only a membership of a million. I belong to a church that has a membership of two hundred and fifty million."

Then a young man stepped forward. He was a missionary of

the Church in the British Mission. Calmly he stepped up to the man and said, "Well, from a standpoint of numbers yours is a great church, perhaps the greatest church amongst all Christian denominations. But," he said, "I recall that at one time the primitive Church which was established by the Lord Jesus and the Twelve Apostles was but a small group. The Savior entrusted his gospel message to a very few people, most of them unlearned but very humble."

Then the young elder continued, "That primitive Church, though small in numbers, was nevertheless a great Church. It was great in its missionary endeavor. It was great in its calling to preach the gospel to the civilized world of that day. There is something in a church that makes it great besides its numbers."

WORK TO GO FORWARD

I frequently think of that circumstance. God's work will go forward in the earth. I am sure it will never be weaker than it is today. It will grow in strength and in influence until this gospel of the kingdom has been preached as a witness in all the world, and until every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ.

May we, you and I, assist in this great enterprise, and may we work out our salvation in fear before our Heavenly Father, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER GERMAN E. ELLSWORTH

Former President of the Northern California Mission

My Brethren and Sisters, it is certainly a high honor to be called to occupy this pulpit, and I pray God, my Father, that he will grant me utterance while I bear my testimony to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Three years ago in President Clark's office, he said to me, "President Ellsworth, when a car has gone 77,000 miles, the bottom may drop out anytime. You slow down."

Facetiously, I said, "President Clark, I'm not as old as you are."

Then he said, "Well, what is the difference?"

I said, "Six weeks." (Laughter)

I went back to the mission determined to build another eight or ten meeting houses, that they might be rallying spots where hundreds of the sons and grandsons of the Church who have wandered away without anchor from the Church, might meet. When President Clark set me apart ten years ago he especially blessed me that I might have power to gather up the lost sheep of the Church. People who had moved and settled in the northern part of California without regard to any organization of the Church.